

**FY20**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## A Message from Chief Jeff Film

Mayor John Pribonic,

It is a privilege to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Stow. Through a collaborative effort with the City Administration, City Council, community leaders, and my department personnel, we have been working hard to provide the best possible services to our community. It is my privilege to present to you and City Council the 2020 Annual Report of the Stow Police Department. This report is a compilation of statistical information as well as an outline of the multiple services that we provide to the community.

2020 was like no other year in the history of this country. As the entire country went into lockdown, our safety forces personnel remained ever vigilant and steadfast providing the service and commitment that our citizens have become accustomed to receiving. The community also responded by donating much-needed PPE in the beginning to ensure that our officers and firefighter personnel were properly protected when supplies were almost depleted worldwide.

The nationwide police reform movement initiated in 2020 after several police-involved shootings have brought to light several areas of improvement needed in law enforcement across our country. I am proud to say that the Stow Police Department has been very proactive in the areas addressed by many reform groups. The Stow Police Department holds our officers to the highest of standards. Here are a few of the protocols that we have in place:

- We have integrated a national policy and procedure manual system (Lexipol) that has been approved by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies), and the Ohio Collaborative.
- Officer complaints can be filed online and/or in person. Every complaint is investigated and reviewed with the administrative staff and the city law department when appropriate.
- Every use of force incident is documented and reviewed by a supervisor. Then it is submitted to the Use of Force Committee to ensure that policies and the law were followed.
- In incidents of lethal force, we call in the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to investigate and process the crime scene.
- The Summit County Prosecutor's office is brought in from the beginning to oversee the legal aspects of all officer-involved shootings and/or deadly force incidents.
- We use both mobile and body-worn cameras to document our daily interactions with the public increasing our professionalism and transparency. We were one of the first communities in Summit County to have a department-wide system.
- Officers receive training on discrimination, implicit bias, and de-escalation techniques.

As we push forward in to 2021, we know that we must keep the dialogue open and be willing to meet the needs of the community. The father of policing, Sir Robert Peel, stated that the police need the approval of its community to be successful and for that to happen we must not cater to the public opinion, but we must constantly demonstrate absolute impartial service to the law.

I am very proud of the men and women that represent the Stow Police Department. Their performance this past year during the pandemic and civil unrest is attributed to their dedication to providing the best possible service to our community. It is our goal to continue building our police department's relationship with the public through training, prompt service, community involvement, and feedback so we can provide the finest services to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chief Jeffery E. Film



# Stow Police Department



3800 Darrow Road, Stow, OH 44224  
Phone: (330) 689-5700 Fax: (330) 689-5799



<https://stowohio.org/departments/police/>



[Stow Police Department, Stow, OH](#)

follow us on  
**twitter**



[@StowPD](#)

# Mission, Vision Statements, and Core Values



## Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a visible deterrent to criminals and a visible assurance to the public; to protect those who have been wronged and pursue those who have done wrong, and to serve all with dignity and respect.

## Vision Statement

We will meet challenges and inspire public confidence through innovation, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence.

## Core Values

- Integrity:*** We adhere to a code of honesty and ethical principles in all that we do.
- Service:*** We faithfully and selflessly serve those who have entrusted us to perform the duties of a Stow Police Officer.
- Commitment:*** We are dedicated to performance reflective of the highest standard of personal and organizational excellence.

## Covid-19 Pandemic



On January 20, 2020, 22 days prior to the World Health Organization proposing the official name of the disease, the United States confirmed its first Covid-19 case in Washington State. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine declared a State of Emergency after 3 people tested positive in the state. On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared Covid-19 a National Emergency.

Schools in Ohio were ordered to be shut down, beginning on March 17, 2020. What began as a 3 week “extended spring break” turned into online, virtual, and at-home schooling, which would continue throughout the end of the school year. Next, restaurants, bars, salons, gyms, daycares, playgrounds, movie theaters, and many other recreation facilities and businesses were closed by the state. Visitation was banned at nursing homes and correction facilities. Elective surgeries were delayed. By March 24, 2020, a stay-at-home order, signed by the Ohio Director of Health, Dr. Amy Acton, was in effect.

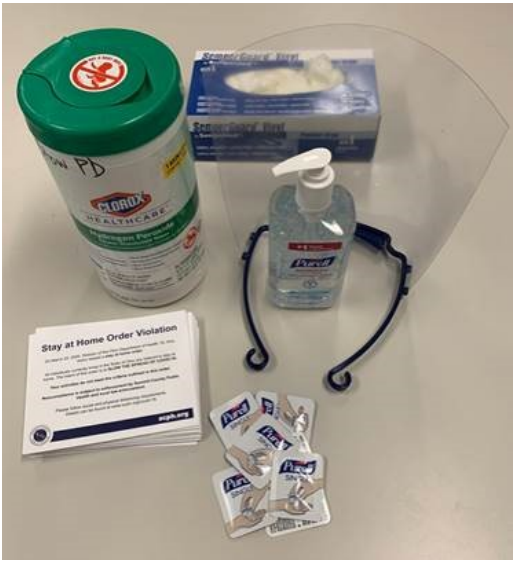
On March 16, 2020, Stow Police Department issued a “Special Order”, putting into place additional procedures to enhance the safety of all employees. All normal police operations came to a screeching halt, as we could no longer conduct our daily activities in the same manner.



Employees were given guidelines on cleaning and sanitizing our workplace. We were asked to transition from in-person communication to passing information over the radio, phone, or email. Efforts were made to limit contact with the public. Officers were asked to take non-emergency reports by phone. Traffic stops were limited to serious offenses and citations were not to be signed by the violator.

We could no longer accept outstanding warrants, other than felonies when there was jail space available. Proactive policing was suspended to limit contact with people in businesses and stores. Court testimony was conducted remotely. Police employees were no longer permitted in certain areas of the building, including the dispatch center, records division, and administrative area.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was issued to all personnel and instructions on use were disseminated. Cleaning supplies, such as disinfectant spray, gloves, and cloth towels were supplied due to the shortage of disposable wipes. The department contracted a company to provide spray disinfectant on a weekly basis. Electronic sanitizers were provided to clean masks, cell phones, safety glasses, etc. Temperature stations were set up at building entrance points and employees were required to log their temperature daily. Employees were alerted to the signs and symptoms of the virus and told to stay home if they did not feel well.



Policing is a 24/7, 365 days a year operation. Officers, Dispatchers, and Records personnel continued to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Many struggled to juggle homeschooling their children and lack of daycare options. Some were forced to isolate themselves from immediate family due to the environment we work in.

Officers adapted to frequently changing court procedures and jail restrictions. The police department strived to follow CDC guidelines and update our Special Order on several occasions to reflect the most current recommendations.



Dispatch employees began making masks for officers early on to help keep us safe. Many members of the community and local businesses donated masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and food to protect officers and keep our spirits up. Regardless of what COVID brought, everyone worked through it as we strived to provide the best service possible.

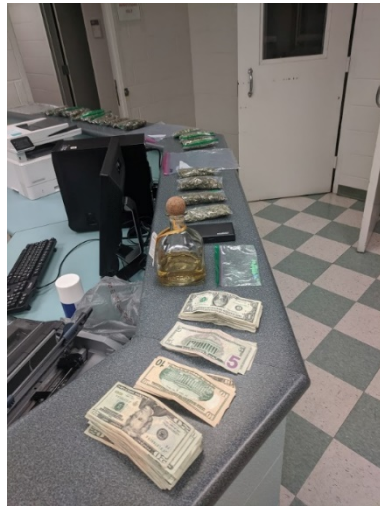


## Uniformed Patrol



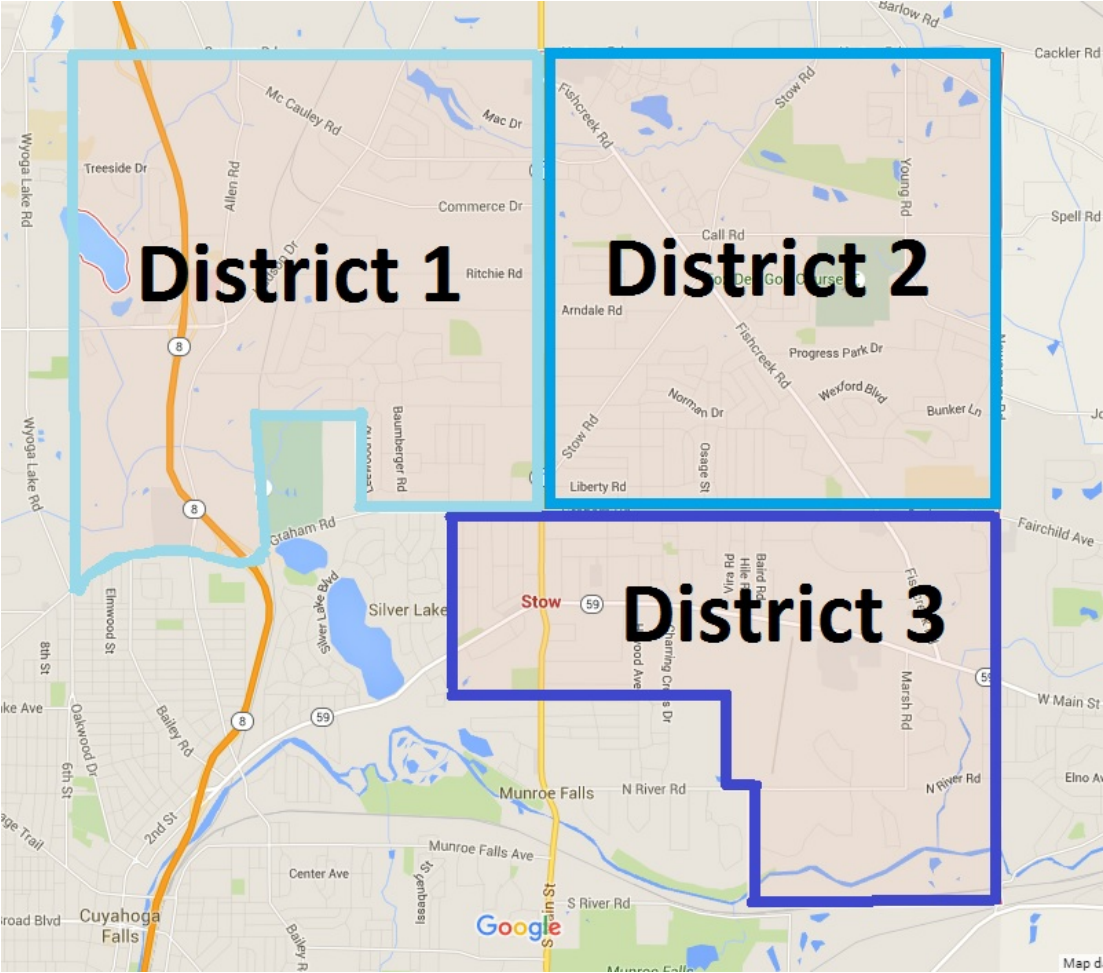
Out of the 42 full-time sworn police officers at Stow PD, 34 are assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Division. These officers are dedicated to patrol duties and are first responders to all emergencies and calls for service from the community.

In 2020, patrol was awarded the Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,800, which allowed us to purchase 6 Motorola APX6000 Portable radios. The grant covered 75% of the purchase amount.



# Patrol Districts

The city is divided into 3 separate districts for police coverage. Each officer is assigned a district at the beginning of their shift. Supervisors and officers who are not assigned a designated district are referred to as “district 4” cars which means they cover the entire city. Each district has unique characteristics. District 1 houses industrial areas, business districts, SR-8, an ARMY National Guard armory, area hotels, a hospital, and residential areas. District 2 is largely residential, but does contain some business districts, large areas of green space, and the city’s high school. District 3 has large areas of retail business, along with the Kent State Airport, three schools, and many residential streets.



The City of Stow shares a border with seven different cities: Cuyahoga Falls, Franklin Township, Hudson, Kent, Munroe Falls, Streetsboro, and Tallmadge.

While the police department is responsible for law enforcement duties in the city, other law enforcement agencies also have shared jurisdiction in Stow. These agencies include the Summit County Sheriff’s Department, the Ohio State Patrol, as well as other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

## 2020 Night Shift

Night shift operates from 11:00 PM – 7:00 AM and traditionally leads the patrol division in OVI (drunk driving) and alcohol-related incidents and arrests. In 2020, despite a 26% decrease in overall call volume for the shift, OVI arrests increased by 8%. Night shift made additional efforts to patrol business districts during the spring and summer months when violent protests broke out in Summit County and throughout the country.



## 2020 Day Shift

Day shift operates from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM and typically bears much of the responsibility for interacting with schools, courts, local businesses, and banks. In 2020, the shift handled various calls and concerns in regards to enforcing Covid restrictions. Drive-by parades for birthdays and other special occasions became part of everyday life. Day shift only saw a 6% decrease in call volume for the year, making it the busiest shift in 2020 with 8,226 calls.



## 2020 Afternoon Shift

Afternoon shift operates from 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM. This shift handles a wide variety of incidents, such as vehicle crashes, domestic-related calls, neighbor disputes, shoplifting, and welfare checks. In 2020, there was a sharp rise in domestic-related criminal reports, which increased 33%. Proactive, officer initiated calls decreased by a dramatic 45% due to Covid restrictions.

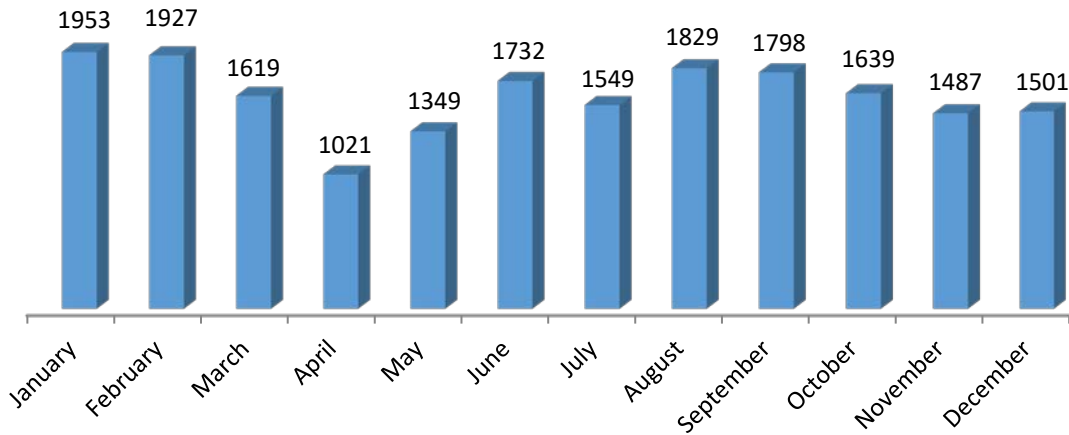


## Statistical Information

In 2020, Stow Police handled 19,404 calls for service. This was a decrease of 17% in total calls from 2019. Self-initiated, proactive policing was significantly reduced at the onset of the pandemic. Calls for service also diminished due to the closing of businesses, and citizens being locked down in their homes.

The below charts and graphs will help give you an idea of when our calls for service occurred.

### Calls for Service Monthly Breakdown



## Crime Statistics

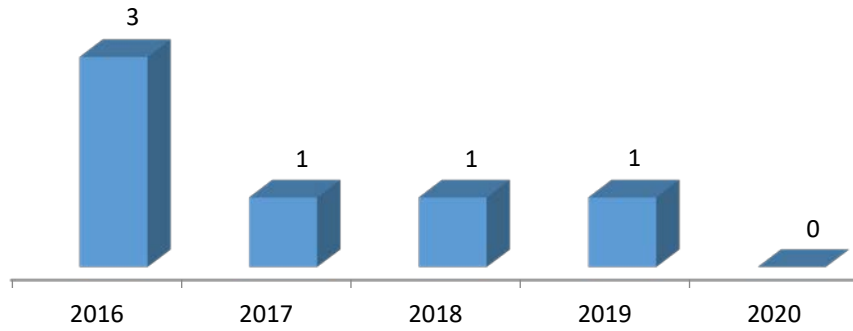
Calls are classified using FBI Uniform Crime Reporting standards. This method of reporting breaks down calls into Part I and Part II offenses. Part I crimes consist of Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary/Breaking & Entering (B&E), Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson. Part II crimes cover all other offenses.

### Part 1 Crimes

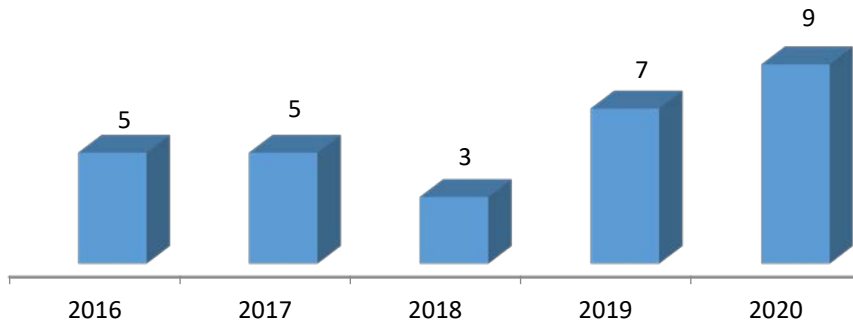


### Part 1 Crimes – 5 Year Look Back

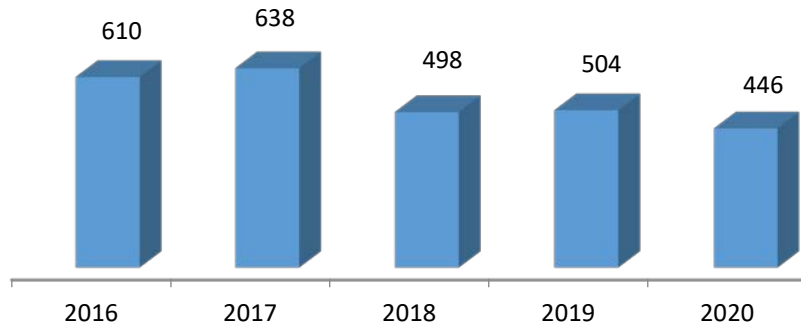
Arson



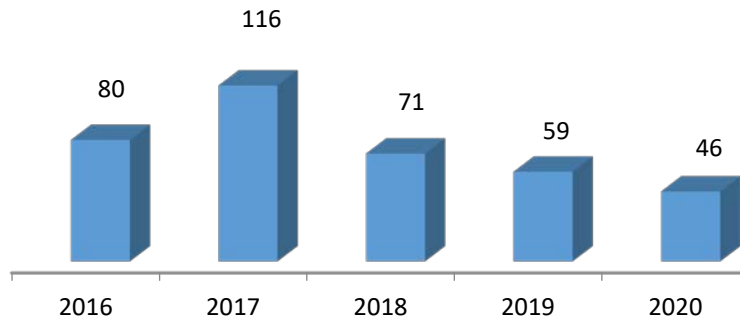
Auto Theft



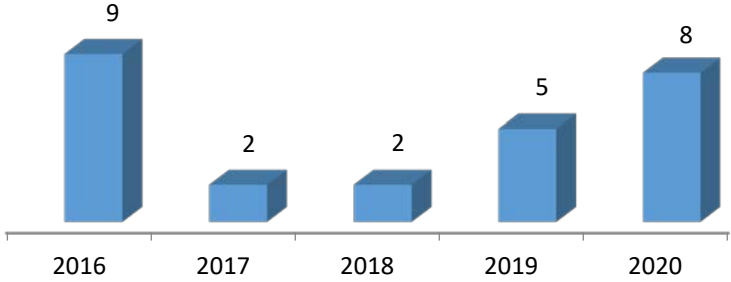
Theft



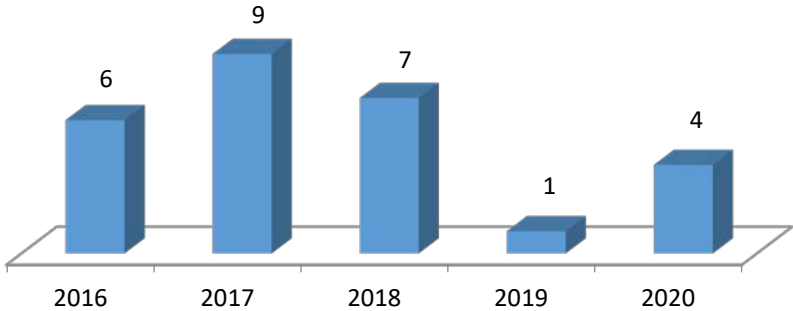
Burglary &  
B&E



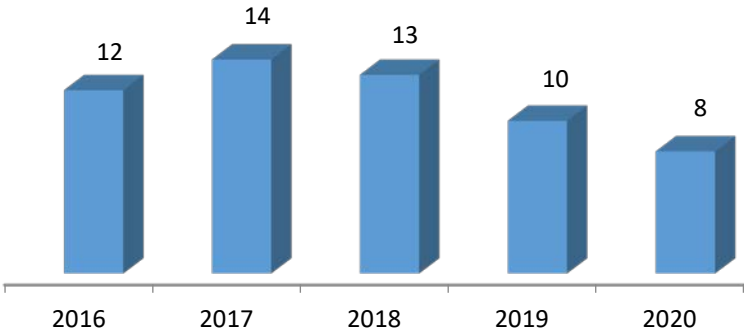
Aggravated Assault



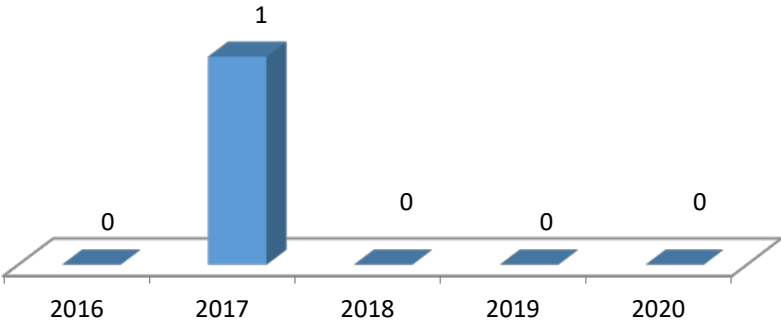
Robbery



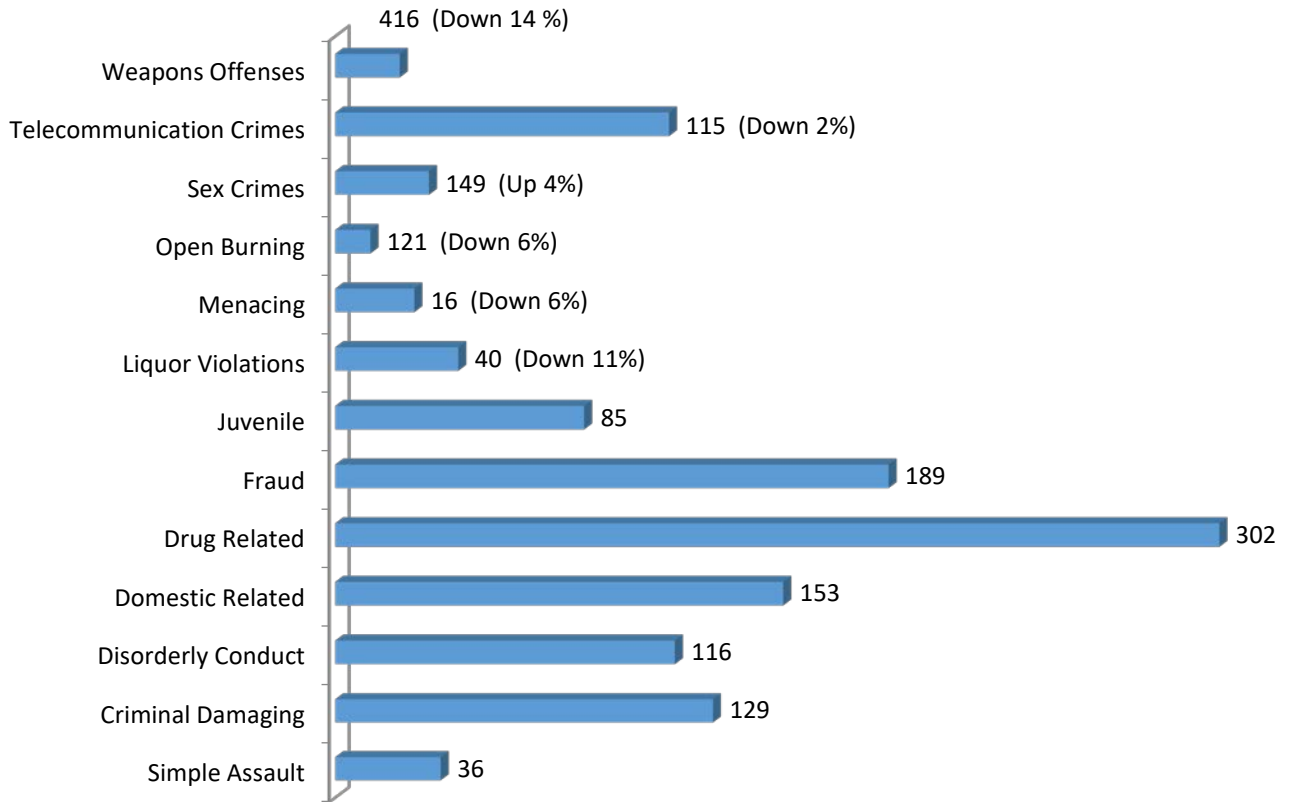
Rape



Homicide

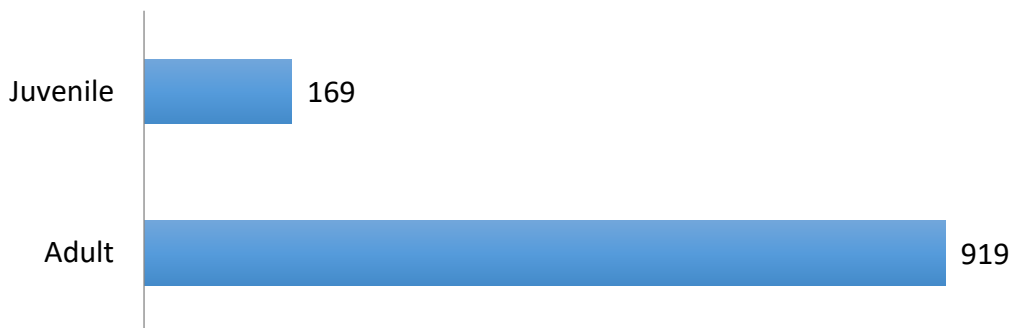


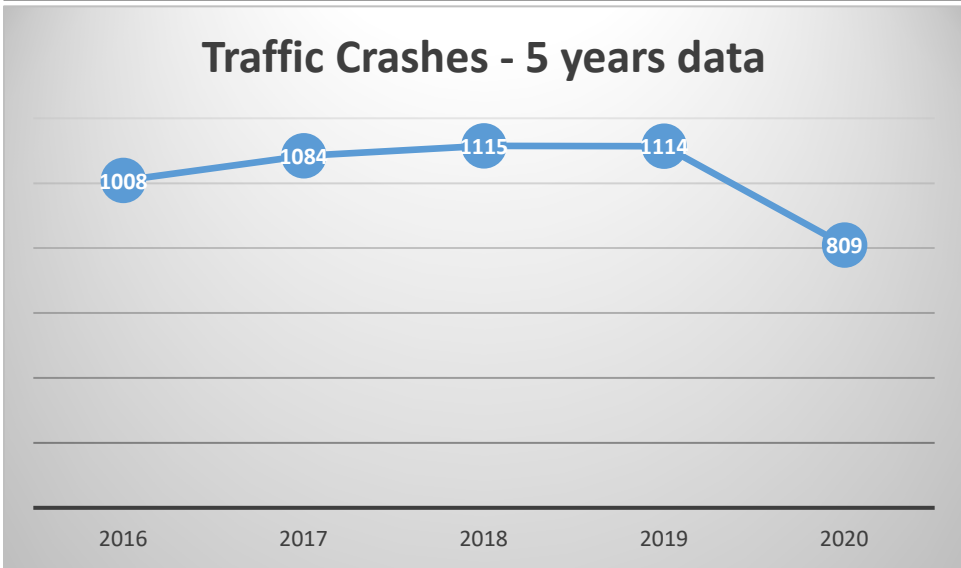
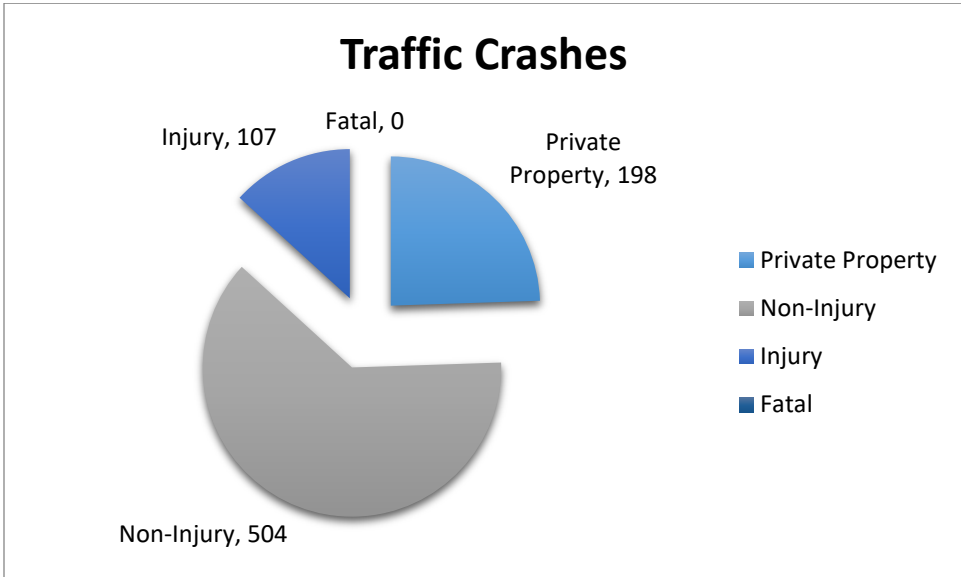
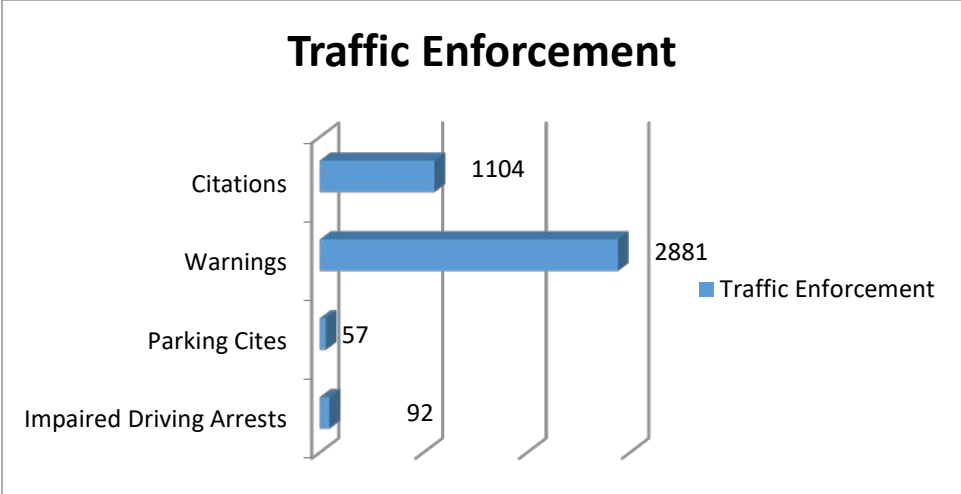
## Other Reports & Part II Crimes



## Arrests

In 2020, Stow Officers made 1,088 arrests. Arrests were down 32% overall from the prior year, which can likely be attributed to a drastic reduction in contact with the public. Stow Youth Services (SYS) experienced an extraordinary increase in “walk-in” cases, increasing from 1 in 2019, to 27 in 2020. This is due to home visits by SYS, assisted by the PD, for students not participating in online school work.





## Retirements, New Hires, and Promotions

### Retirements

Lieutenant Ken Mifflin retired on August 9th, 2020. Lieutenant Mifflin started his career with the City of Cleveland Heights Police Department in July 1987, and was hired by the City of Stow Police Department in January 1995. He started out as a Patrol Officer and transitioned into the Detective Bureau in January 1997. Lieutenant Mifflin was a Detective for seventeen years. During his tenure in the Detective Bureau, he became the department's Polygraph Examiner. Lieutenant Mifflin performed Pre-Employment Polygraph Examinations for Police, Fire, Dispatch, and Reserve Officer Applicants. In addition, he ran Criminal (Specific) polygraph examinations for the department and other local and federal agencies, including the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Lieutenant Mifflin was a Tactical Entry Team Member and Lead Trainer with Metro SWAT (formerly CRRT) from 1995 to 2008. He was promoted to Sergeant in November 2012, and remained in the Detective Bureau as the supervisor until January 2014, when he was moved to patrol. Mifflin served on both night shift and afternoon shift as a Patrol Sergeant. In November 2018, Mifflin was promoted to Lieutenant. He culminated his career of 33 years as the Shift Commander of the dayshift platoon.



Officer Dave Semonin was hired by Stow Police Department in April of 1992 and retired December 25, 2020. Officer Semonin attended the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, graduating in July of 1992. During his over 28 year career, Officer Semonin served as a Patrolman, Detective, Stow Municipal Court Officer, Evidence Technician, and Vehicle Fleet Manager. He was also a member of the bike patrol and received certification as a bike technician to oversee equipment for the unit. Officer Semonin held the position of FOP Treasurer and was a contract negotiating team member for many years. In retirement, Semonin plans to pursue his own personal business ventures.

## New Hires

On February 3, 2020, Officer Chris Demars was sworn in as a member of the Police Department.



Pictured: Mayor John Pribonic and Officer Chris Demars

Chris Demars graduated from Rootstown High School in 2015. He has played baseball his whole life and started varsity baseball all four years in high school. Chris received All-Ohio honors for his position at shortstop his senior year. During his college years, he spent five summers working at the Portage County Engineers office. Chris graduated from Kent State University in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Justice Studies. He graduated from the Kent State Police Academy in January of 2020. Chris has been training Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for the last 5 years. In his free time, he enjoys running trails in the National Parks and working out.

On August 10, 2020, Officer Dylan Gabel was sworn in as a member of the Police Department.



Pictured: Officer Lonnie Gabel – Munroe Falls PD (Uncle), Officer Dylan Gabel,  
Officer Michael Gabel (Father) – Bath PD

Dylan Gabel grew up in Stow and graduated from Stow Munroe Falls High School in 2014. He spent four years in the Air Force conducting security and law enforcement operations. During his time of service, he achieved multiple military commendations including the Air Force Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Outstanding Unit Award, and Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal. Following his military time, Dylan was employed as a jailer for the Barberton Police Department and a part-time Police Officer for the City of Fairlawn. Dylan graduated from the Kent State University Police Academy in July of 2019. He comes from a law enforcement family, with both his father and uncle currently serving in nearby communities. Dylan looks forward to serving the residents of Stow in the community he grew up in.

On December 21, 2020, Officer Samantha Hornyak was sworn in as a member of the Police Department.



Pictured: Officer Samantha Hornyak in front of the Safety Center

Originally from Irvine, California, Samantha Hornyak moved to Youngstown, OH to attend Youngstown State University in 2016. She graduated with her Bachelors in Criminal Justice and her Bachelors in Psychology in May 2020. She then went on to graduate from the Youngstown State University Police Academy in July 2020. Samantha has had an interest in law enforcement from a young age, joining the Irvine Police Explorers at age 14 and continuing to serve her community until she graduated from Northwood High School in 2016. Samantha holds a basic EMT certification and enjoys working out, hiking, and cooking in her free time.

## Promotions



On August 10, 2020, Sergeant Steve Miller was promoted to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Miller remained on afternoon shift. He went through a comprehensive independent assessment center and psychological examination in order to receive this promotion. Lieutenant Miller serves as the department's range master and lead firearms instructor. He is also the K-9 unit coordinator.



On the same date, Officer John Ginther, a 17-year veteran, was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Ginther took Lieutenant Miller's spot as a patrol sergeant assigned to afternoon shift. He completed a written test, independent panel assessment, psychological examination, and departmental interview prior to being promoted. Sergeant Ginther also served as a Field Training Officer. He participates in the Special Olympics Torch Run, where he has been known to race in full uniform!

## Farewell

Reserve Unit Captain Ron King was sworn into the Stow Police Department on July 4, 1979, after completing three (3) months of training. Beginning as an officer, he elevated through the ranks and retired as a Captain. Throughout his time with the unit, Ron filled various roles. He spent most of his career as an administrative officer.

Ron worked the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade for 38 years, for most of which he manned the busiest intersection at State Route 91 and State Route 59.

Captain King worked in full capacity as a Reserve Officer until 2017. At that time, he transitioned to the role of Advisory Captain. Ron faithfully transported important documents for felony cases to the Summit County Grand Jury in downtown Akron.

Ron has always been a car buff and for many years he has attended and volunteered at cruise-ins around town. He currently owns a 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass and previously had a 1965 Ford Mustang.

Ron also likes vacationing in Myrtle Beach, where he enjoys spending time on the beach with his metal detector and napping on the balcony.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Captain King became inactive in March of 2020 and retired from service on December 31, 2020. Ron was the longest-serving member of the Stow PD, with a total of 41 ½ years!

These days Ron can usually be found with his iPad in hand, checking up on the kids and grandkids on Facebook or Instagram!



Father Kevin Klonowski grew up in Parma, Ohio, and he first sensed Christ’s call to serve Him as a priest in sixth grade. By the time he graduated from High School in 2007, he committed to attending Borromeo Seminary to begin training for the priesthood. During his years in the seminary, he grew closer to the Lord and recognized a deep desire to share the Gospel with the world.

Fr. Klonowski was ordained by Bishop Richard Lennon in 2016 and assigned to Holy Family Parish in Stow, where he celebrated the Sacraments, taught in the school, worked with the youth, and assisted the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Later, Bishop Nelson Perez assigned Fr. Klonowski to serve as a chaplain for the Stow Police Department.

In 2020, Fr. Klonowski received a new assignment, St. Joseph Parish in Strongsville, where he works with Fr. Joe Mamich, also a former Stow Police chaplain. Fr. Klonowski, an avid runner, has completed 10 marathons, and he currently enjoys helping to coach the St. Joseph and John School Cross Country team.



## On the Mend

On October 16, 2019, at 7:16 a.m., School Resource Officer (SRO) Barry Smith was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at a crash near Stow Munroe Falls High School (SMFHS) during the morning rush hour. As a result, Officer Smith underwent surgery in October, 2019 to repair his Tibia. After completing physical therapy, he returned to work in March 2020. He then withstood another surgery on his Rotator Cuff in August of 2020, which prompted more physical therapy. Officer Smith returned to full duty in November 2020.



On May 6, 2019, Sergeant Theodore Bell was struck while in the driver's seat of his marked cruiser. Sgt. Bell was working a construction detail on State Route 8 when he was hit from behind by an impaired driver.

Sgt. Bell suffered a concussion, as well as

herniated discs in his neck. His injuries required follow-up surgery, which took place on October 5, 2020, and placed him out of service for six (6) weeks.

During the procedure, Sgt. Bell had two (2) herniated discs removed and replaced with synthetic material in his lower neck area.

## Training

Members of the Stow Police Department train several times a year in various disciplines in order to stay proficient in their skillset. SPD has several certified OPOTA training instructors within the department. These officers provide practical training in the areas of Defensive Tactics, Less Lethal defensive weapons, Firearms, Rapid Deployment (Active Shooter Response), De-Escalation, Tactical Medical, Riot Control, and other various topics throughout the year. In 2020, Stow PD conducted twenty-five (25) hours of continuing education in-house. Despite the pandemic, only one training had to be rescheduled during the year. The training staff strives to recertify officers in various disciplines early in the calendar year to allow for any necessary rescheduling or make-up training.

## Taser/De-Escalation

Since 2017, Stow PD has been integrating de-escalation into Taser training. Officers are given complex scenarios, similar to real-life calls, which force problem-solving. In 2019, training officers were approved to purchase a Taser “Simulation Training Suit”, which was utilized for the first time in 2020. This protective suit allows the trainer to role-play a realistic scenario. Officers are able to deploy live training Taser cartridges at the role player, without an electrical current being delivered.

During training, officers are required to deploy a minimum of two (2) training cartridges for recertification. Due to some excellent de-escalation skills, some officers never fired their Taser during scenarios! Officers were then given an opportunity to deploy the training cartridge in a more static environment, but still at a live trainer in the suit.



## BAC Recertification

**PROFICIENCY TEST**  
Alcohol and Urine  
Testing  
BAC DATAMASTER SUBJECT TEST

TEST DATE: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] TEST NAME: [ ] TEST SET # [ ]

**BAC DataMaster Subject Test Proficiency Checklist**

- (1) Observe subject for twenty minutes prior to testing to prevent oral intake of any material. (CHECK OFF STEP 1 AND MOVE TO STEP 2)
- (2) Press "RLN" button.
- (3) Enter date as prompted by instrument display.
- (4) Take breath sample when "PLEASE BLOW" appears on display.

TEST HOUR (1)  
[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] g/210L

PERMIT # [ ] EXPIRATION DATE [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] INSURIDEN# [ ] TEST LB # [ ]  
OPERATOR'S SIGNATURE [ ] DEPARTMENT [ ]

HM 2002 Renewal 02/2015 P.1506 P.1507

Typically, Stow PD hosts a recertification course for the BAC DataMaster (breathalyzer) several times a year. This course is attended by members of this department, as well as other area departments.

Due to the pandemic, all renewal courses were put on hold. Officer Justin Smith, who is the Senior Operator in charge of the DataMaster, worked closely with officers to maintain our certifications. Officer J. Smith coordinated with the Ohio Department of Health to ensure we followed the State's "Breath Permit Renewal Contingency Plan". This plan required officers to perform their proficiency test, then scan and email documentation.

## Riot Control

Officers receive a basic riot control/civil disturbance overview in order to prepare for any potential disturbance in the City of Stow, or when called upon for mutual aid to neighboring jurisdictions. Officers may also be asked to combine manpower with Metro SWAT for a larger scale event, and must be trained on common formations and commands. The training staff utilized former and current SWAT personnel, along with a curriculum adapted from Columbus PD, to provide a well-rounded, up-to-date refresher.

This training also allows department members to familiarize themselves with available protective gear. In 2020, Officer Kristopher Maruna took over the responsibility of inventorying and maintaining equipment, as well as making recommendations for necessary additions and updates.



## Defensive Tactics



Defensive Tactics (DT) training was modified to adapt for Covid- 19 restrictions. The training was rescheduled from the spring to the fall. 8 total classes were conducted in order to keep class sizes small.



Typically DT training requires a lot of close quarters, person to person interaction. In 2020, members did a refresher course on ASP baton, O.C. spray, and tourniquet application. Officers also reviewed relevant local case law. Lastly, high-risk traffic stop tactics were taught outdoors.

## Outside Training

The City of Stow regularly invests in advanced training for members of the police department. This allows members to stay up to date on current case law, tactics, and law enforcement trends. Many of our officers also hold advanced training certifications in specific disciplines.

In 2020, officers attended 37 outside training courses, down from 96 in 2019. 19 scheduled courses were canceled due to COVID- 19 and many other training opportunities never came to fruition. The local Richfield, OH OPOTA (Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy) training center shut down indefinitely, which was spurred by the pandemic.

On February 7, 2020, Captain Bryan Snaveley graduated from the Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program. The Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) is a formal program of leadership training presented by the Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation for police officers who are at the executive level or who wish to progress to executive levels in their agency. There are nine different learning modules consisting of written tests, oral presentations, and case studies over a 14-month period.



At the conclusion of the CLEE program, Captain Snavelly was selected from his class to be the recipient of the Chief Michael C. Kallai award. This award is given to recognize academic performance and service to both the profession of law enforcement and the community. Captain Snavelly has since been appointed to the CLEE advisory board.



With eight years of supervisory experience, Lt. Heather Prusha graduated from the Law Enforcement Foundation's Police Executive Leadership College in June of 2020.

Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) provides law enforcement executives the opportunity to learn how to practically apply leadership concepts. It is an intensive learning experience focused on leadership skills vital to long-term personal success and change in the organization – both for the benefit of the community. It requires:

- 105 class hours
- 20 required readings
- 4 research papers
- 5 community interviews
- 3 team projects
- 3 speeches including a final capstone presentation



## Investigative Division

The Detective Bureau is comprised of one supervisor and four detectives. Overseen by Captain Bryan Snavelly, these detectives investigate crimes of a more serious nature within our community.

Detectives also assist officers with more detailed follow-ups and help manage crime scene processing. They are trained in advanced interview and interrogation techniques and have access to investigative tools that provide comprehensive data critical to case development.



## Notable Cases

Detective Jeff Swanson investigated a case involving a female dancer from Jen’s Den in Akron, who followed a Stow resident back to his home. While at the subject’s home, the male tried to have a sexual encounter with the dancer, and when she refused, he pointed a gun at her. Detective Swanson obtained a search warrant on the home gathering multiple pieces of evidence and gained a confession from the suspect. The suspect plead guilty to Aggravated Menacing charges.

Detective Edie Gaffney investigated a case involving a 55 yr. old woman who reported hearing multiple gunshots and later finding bullet holes in her vehicle and attached garage. After a lengthy investigation that included interviews, DNA testing, and search warrants, a 25 yr.



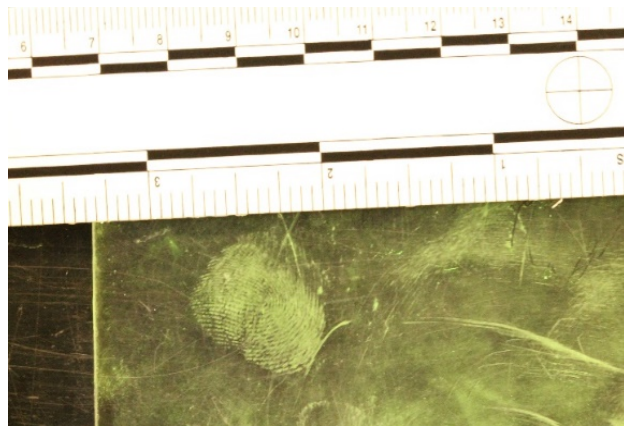
old Stow man was charged with firing a .44 caliber handgun into an occupied home. The Stow man was later convicted of numerous offenses and sentenced to three years in prison.





Detective Nick Dolezal investigated a robbery in February of 2020 involving a male and female suspect who held up the Graham Road Speedway gas station at gunpoint. The suspects stole money from the cash register, cigarettes, and an employee's vehicle before fleeing the scene. Thanks to the help of officers on scene and the utilization of Officer Reedy as an evidence technician who gathered both fingerprint and DNA evidence, the suspects were quickly identified.

Detective Dolezal took over the investigation; obtaining search warrants, citizen tips from a Facebook post, and searching multiple motels and shelters for the stolen vehicle. Eventually, warrants were authorized for both suspects for Aggravated Robbery, Complicity, and two counts of Grand Theft Motor Vehicle. The female was later found guilty of Aggravated Robbery and sentenced to 4-6 years in prison with mandatory 5 years post-release supervision. The male currently has active arrest warrants and the plea disposition is not complete.



A Stow resident reported 20 unauthorized ATM withdrawals, cash advances, and purchases totaling over \$4,500 made in Summit, Portage, and Stark County. After a lengthy investigation, a suspect was identified and charged with two theft-related felonies. The suspect subsequently pled guilty to both charges at the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

## Specialized Units

### Metro SWAT

Metro SWAT is comprised of 20 area police departments from Summit and Portage Counties including Stow, as well as fire personnel from those jurisdictions. The SWAT team is comprised of tactical operators, negotiators, technical support staff, medics, and doctors. Metro SWAT has five vehicles including an Armored Lenco Bear Cat, Command Post, Negotiator truck, Utility box truck, and Entry van.

SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics and the team is called out for situations including criminal barricades, hostage rescues, high-risk warrant services, dignitary security details, and land navigation searches for criminals or missing persons. The team trains monthly on all these topics and more.

On May 9, 2020, an immediate action team, consisting of a small element of tactical operators, responded to Stow for a planned rally. On May 30, 2020, Metro SWAT was called upon for mutual aid to the City of Akron for crowd control and site security during protests. The following day, June 1, 2020, Ravenna PD requested assistance for a planned protest at the Portage County Courthouse.





The Stow Police Department has five (5) members on Metro SWAT serving in the tactical operator and negotiator roles. 13-year veteran, Brian Haddix, joined the team in February of 2020. This year, Sergeant Kasey Lasko received her 5 years of service award and was promoted to Team Leader of the Crisis Negotiators.



Sergeant Dan Drummond served as a negotiator on the team for 5 years, resigning in 2020, and had this to say about his experience:

*“Although my time with Metro SWAT was relatively brief, I learned many lessons that have made me a better police officer. The residents of the communities served by the team probably have no idea of the level of commitment and courage displayed by the members of Metro SWAT. Our departments are fortunate to be able to call on a well-trained, professional SWAT team that is on the level of any team out there. It was an honor to serve with the officers and paramedics on this team and I will miss being part of this outstanding group of people”.*



## Honor Guard



The purpose of the Honor Guard is to represent the department at ceremonial events. They train quarterly in order to maintain a high level of precision. In 2020, the unit rode on a float in the City's drive-by 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, which traveled through several residential neighborhoods.

In May, the Honor Guard participated in the Greater Cleveland Police Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) Grave Marker Ceremony. They were unable to stand guard at the GCPOMS memorial or march in the parade due to Covid-19 restrictions canceling Cleveland's Police Week.

The Officer Johnathan Bastock's Luminary Event, a memorial service named for a fallen Stow officer, was also canceled this year. The Honor Guard was able to participate in the city's annual September 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony, where they posted and retired the Colors. The unit added one new event this year. The Honor Guard posted and retired Colors virtually for the city's Relay for Life.



## Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT)

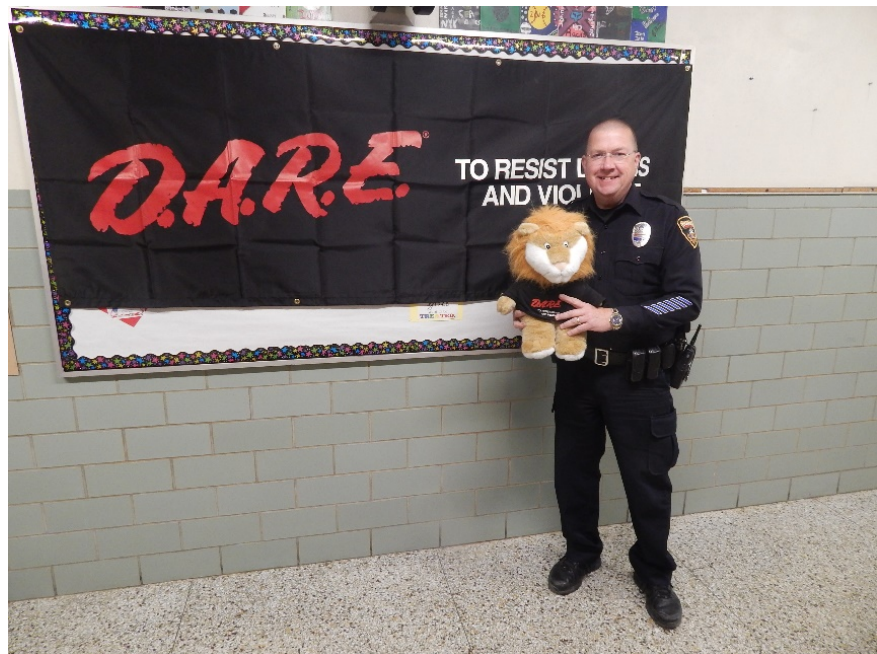
The Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT) is a multi-jurisdictional crash response team founded in 2002. Stow was a founding member of this team and continues to participate in this unit which includes thirteen (13) different police departments. Stow Officer Kristopher Maruna has been an active member of the team since November of 2019. The team consists of highly trained crash investigators and reconstructionists who respond to assist with crash investigations. Situations where the unit might be activated include crashes resulting in serious injury or fatality; crashes involving pedestrians; crashes involving motorcycles or commercial vehicles; or any other complex crash. In 2020, the team was called to assist at twenty-two (22) crash scenes, one of which was in Stow.



## DARE

The Stow Police Department provides DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the sixth-grade class at Stow-Munroe Falls Schools. DARE consists of police officer-led lessons that teach children how to resist peer pressure and live productive lives, free from drugs and violence. Officer Jim Barker has served as the lead instructor for 18 years and educates approximately 430 students yearly. The program is partially funded through a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Officer Jason Bailey was selected to be the next DARE officer in April of 2020. In preparation for retirement, Officer Barker began training Officer Bailey at the beginning of the 2020- 2021 school year.



## Evidence Technician



The Evidence Technician team consists of officers who are specially trained to process crime scenes. These officers work in conjunction with the Detective Bureau and respond to scenes in which there is potential for forensic evidence to be collected. Any evidence collected is sent to Ohio’s Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) crime lab for processing.

## Community Service Officer (CSO)

The department has one full-time Community Service Officer to be of assistance within the department and the city. CSO Edward Young handles all animal control issues and is certified by the National Animal Control Association. He also assists the community with service calls that do not require a sworn officer, such as when citizens lock their keys in their vehicles. In addition to handling animal control and service calls, CSO Young is responsible for maintaining the department’s fleet of vehicles and equipment and is often tasked with other miscellaneous jobs and special projects. In 2020, CSO Young maintained Covid cleaning stations throughout the building. 2020 also brought delays in purchasing and receiving police fleet vehicles. The PD was lucky enough to procure two (2) new K-9 cruisers despite the complications. In 2020, CSO Young handled 269 calls for service.



## K-9 Unit

In 2020, The Stow Police Department had three K-9 units. Each of the three (3) shifts had a working K-9 officer. K-9s are a valuable resource and a huge asset to the department and community.

K-9 Kado was retired on August 9, 2020, when Sgt. Miller was promoted to Lieutenant. Kado remained with Lt. Miller at home.

All of Stow's K-9s are full-service dogs, which means they are used for drug detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension. The three (3) dogs are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission as well as the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

These K-9s, guided by their handlers, have been instrumental in tracking and apprehending numerous criminal suspects, and have seized thousands of dollars worth of illegal narcotics that pass through the city.



On 11/5/2020, Officer Jacob Corfman and K-9 Ruger assisted Cuyahoga Falls PD in tracking a suspect who fled from a traffic crash on State Route 8 southbound near Front Street. K-9 Ruger led the track, locating the suspect in the woods, southwest of the accident. The suspect surrendered after warnings were given K-9 Ruger would be released.



Some notable deployments for Officer Patrick Myers and K-9 Diesel in 2020 include:

- On 2/2/20, the unit assisted Northfield Police Department with a vehicle sniff. 7 grams of Meth and LSD were recovered. The offender was found guilty of F-3 Possession.
- On 7/18/20, the unit assisted Tallmadge PD with a vehicle sniff. 15 grams of Meth were recovered. The case is currently pending.



# Crisis Intervention Team

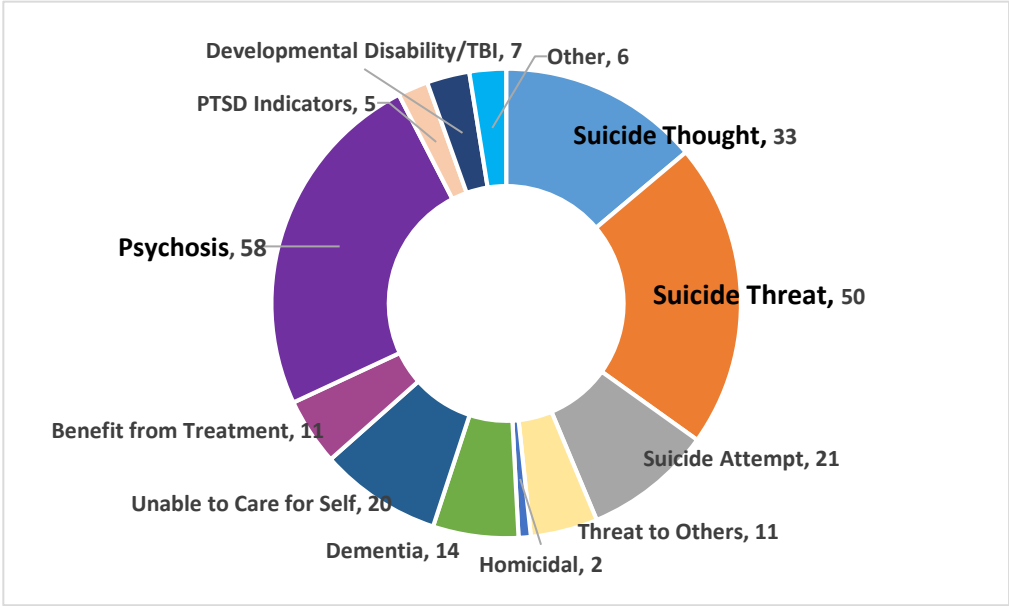
The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) at Stow PD is a group of nineteen (19) sworn officers who have attended forty (40) hours of specialized training to recognize and effectively respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers routinely use techniques they have learned in order to de-escalate crises with the goal of helping to direct persons with mental illness into treatment.



In 2020, Officer Jesse Reedy completed this training and was added to the CIT team. Two CIT officers retired this year, Lt. Ken Mifflin and Officer Dave Semonin. Over half our officers (54%) assigned to patrol are now CIT certified.

Officers documented 224 calls involving a mental health crisis this year, which is the highest number of calls since we began tracking in 2017. Only 1 of the calls resulted in arrest, while 162 calls were resolved with immediate mental health treatment, or referred to a crisis resource. A CIT officer was the primary contact on crisis calls 140 times.

Of the 224 crisis calls, 128 times officers recorded that the subject was known to them from previous calls. Some of these previous encounters were not necessarily crisis calls.



Officers choose from twelve categories to categorize mental health calls. Calls involving suicidal thoughts, threats, or attempts made up 46% of the crisis calls. Subjects experiencing psychosis generated a large number of responses as well.

# Stow Police

## Reserve Unit

Reserve Officers provide a number of valuable support services for the City of Stow Police Department. They are non-sworn volunteers, although they do receive worker’s compensation benefits and a small monthly stipend to cover expenses.



Reserve Officers regular patrol duties include: checking the homes of residents on vacation, vehicle lockouts, checking disabled vehicles, and assisting with traffic control at accidents. They also assist with weather emergencies and at special events such as traffic at high school football games, 5-K runs, and the July 4th parade.

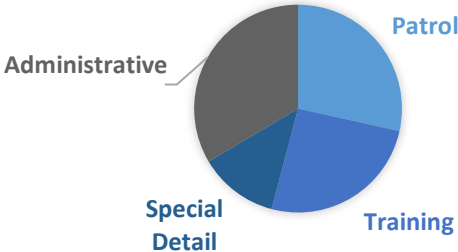
Reserve Unit operations were suspended in March of 2020, due to the pandemic. At the end of June, the unit met to review current Covid protocols and was reinstated to limited duty.



Reserve Officer George “Brad” Hough was added to the unit as a new hire.

In 2020, Fred Massingill received his 5 years of service award. Overall, the Reserve Unit volunteered 558 hours in 2020, down from 1,235 hours in 2019.

### RESERVE OFFICER VOLUNTEER HOURS



## Support Services

### Stow Municipal Court



The Stow Municipal Court serves sixteen (16) communities in northeast Summit County. Cases are filed by Summit County agencies, which reside in the court’s jurisdiction. In 2020, Stow Municipal Court saw a drastic reduction in case intake. 14,916 cases were filed in 2020, as opposed to the 20,682 from the previous year. The City of Stow accounted for 19% of the total cases filed.

Unlike many of the Courts throughout Ohio, both the Stow Court and the Stow Clerk of Courts remained fully operational throughout the entire pandemic. Accommodations and safety precautions were enacted by both offices to keep the patrons served by the Court and the employees reporting to work safely. This includes successfully accommodating three jury trials in 2020.

The City of Stow Police Department assigns one officer to work full-time at the courthouse in conjunction with the security force there. The court officer is responsible for ensuring the security of the building and overseeing prisoner transports. Additionally, they are tasked with ensuring the safety of the judges, magistrates, and court staff, as well as all visitors to the building. This position was vacated by 28-year veteran, Officer David Semonin, who retired on December 25, 2020. Officer Joseph Hepler was selected to fill the position in October 2020.



## Communications Division

The Stow Regional Communications Center is staffed by 14 full-time Communication Specialists (CS) and 3 part-time CS, plus a supervisor. Each member is certified by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch. All 9-1-1 calls, all non-emergency calls, and most administrative calls are received through the Communications Center. The Stow Communications Center dispatches calls not only for the City of Stow safety forces, but also for the cities of Tallmadge and Mogadore.

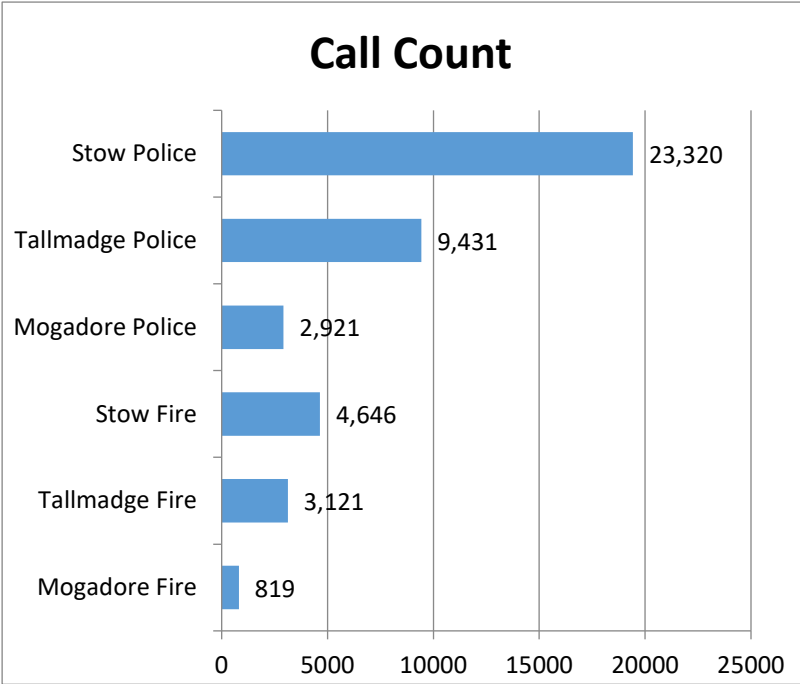


CS are responsible for receiving incoming emergency calls, prioritizing calls based on the nature of an emergency, providing instructions on life-saving emergency medical interventions, and dispatching the proper emergency personnel. CS monitor numerous radio frequencies and use the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system to log calls while answering both emergency and non-emergency lines.

Each CS goes through an initial 16 weeks of on the job training before being released to work on their own. They continue to receive training throughout their career in order to stay up to date on the latest skills and information.



In 2020, Stow Regional Communications logged almost 8,000 fewer total incidents than the previous year. There were 40,357 incidents in our CAD system, that’s about 111 incidents every day. Below is a breakdown of the Stow Regional Communications call volume by agency.



## Dispatch Awards

On May 1, 2020, Dispatchers Tammy Molody and Kara Farkas were nominated by their coworkers for the APCO/NENA Gold Star Award for 2019. APCO and NENA are international 911 agencies that provide training, protocols, and guidelines to dispatch centers all over the world.

Tammy Molody was nominated for the 2019 Dispatcher of the Year Award for her outstanding service during a suicide call here in Stow. Kara Farkas was nominated for the 2019 Trainer of the Year Award for all of her hard work and effort in updating our training program for the Stow Regional Communications Center.

Sadly, due to Covid-19, the Ohio awards ceremony, which is held in Columbus, was put on hold this year until further notice. We were able to celebrate here at the police department during our own awards luncheon.



Dispatchers Norma Stewart and Sue Novak were awarded Stork Pins and commendations at the City Council meeting on March 12, 2020.

In January, the dispatchers worked together to assist a 911 caller who was in active labor while at home. One dispatcher was able to give the caller birthing directions while the other dispatched EMS to the scene. Thanks to their teamwork, our Stow Fire Department arrived to find a healthy baby girl and a happy mother and father.

Unfortunately, Dispatcher Novak was unable to attend the ceremony in person. However, the family and the baby they helped deliver were present to see Dispatcher Stewart presented with her award and to express their gratitude.



## Records Division



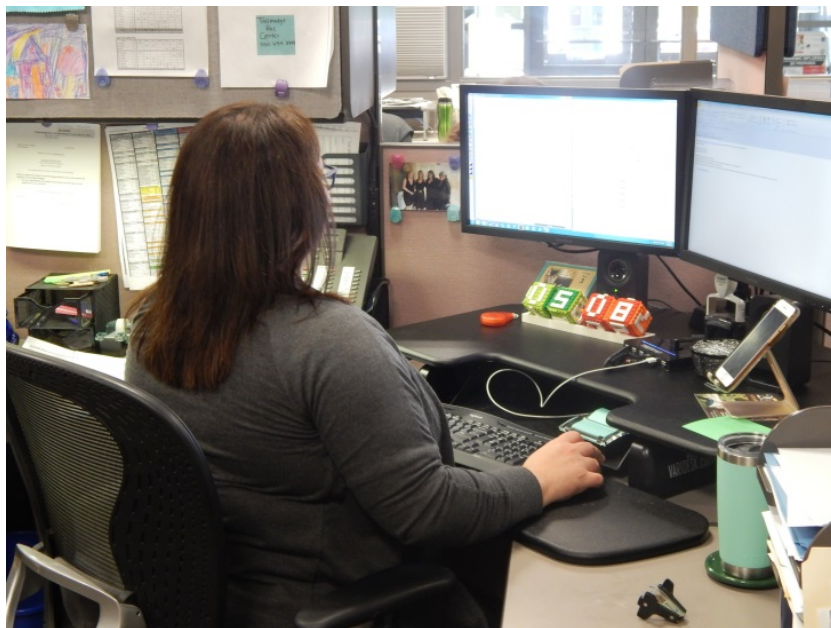
Stow Records Division is responsible for maintaining all records produced by the Stow Police Department. The division is staffed by a supervisor, three full-time records clerks, and a part-time intern. They process criminal, incident, and crash reports, among several other various police documents. Staff is also in charge of data entry, preparing criminal and traffic charges, as well as video evidence for court. All members of the Records Division attend training to stay up to date on public records laws. They also manage and distribute all public records requests.

The Records Division made some modifications due to the pandemic. Staff worked from home and rotated working in person in the office. Employees were able to remote into their computers from home to complete work tasks and keep the Records Division up to date.

Working from home also allowed them time to work on microfilm preparation. This is normally done on slow workdays, which are very rare. The department has records on microfilm going as far back as 1957. Currently, records are being prepared from 2012. Records staff will continue to microfilm case files through 2016, which is when the department changed over to an electronic reporting system.



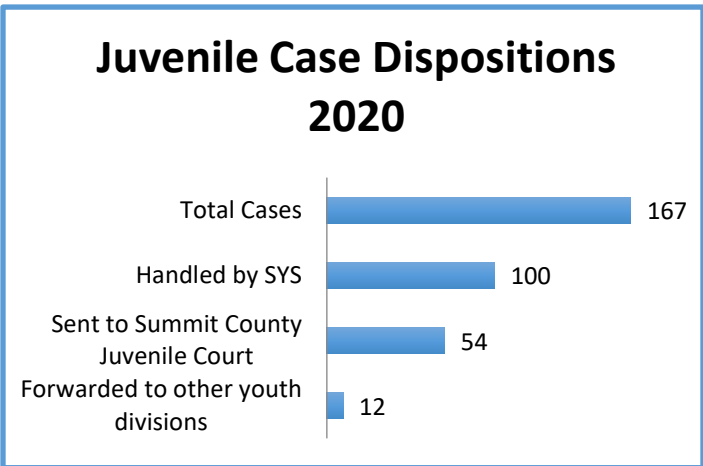
Records staff is currently preparing to join a county-wide Computer Aided Dispatch and Records system, which is set to go live in 2021.



# Stow Youth Services

Stow Youth Services (SYS) is a program provided by the Stow Police Department. The program offers juveniles charged with a misdemeanor offense the opportunity to accept responsibility and work with SYS rather than have their case prosecuted through Summit County Juvenile Court. If they successfully complete the program, the juvenile’s record is erased and is not charged on their record. The department accepts case referrals from the Police Department, as well as walk-ins by parents. The juvenile must be a resident of Stow to participate in the program. Some of the programs juveniles are required to attend include: Restitution, Community Service, Counseling, Drug/Alcohol Education, and Anger Management. These requirements are in addition to meeting(s) with Youth Services Staff.

Stow Youth Services saw a significant increase in walk-in cases due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Stow Munroe Falls School system saw a surge in truancy violations due to remote learning. Rather than formally charging students for truancy, Stow Police Department created the Truancy Intervention Team. These cases were logged as Walk-ins. The team consists of a Stow Police Officer and a staff member from Stow Youth Services. The team makes a visit to the family at their home. They discuss the problems the student and family are having with their education program. The team offers support and resources, then educates the family on the truancy law. A report of the findings at the home is given to the referring school principal. The team then follows up with the school and the family in two weeks to ensure the student has been successful in making changes to their education routine.



Pictured are Stow Youth Services Employees Toni Carter, Ron Clum, and Director Kathy Christ.

## Safety Town



First, they created a virtual learning portal through Prezi that included 10 of our essential safety topics. Each lesson consisted of a video, top safety tips to remember, and a little quiz to get the children practicing the lessons. Fire safety, weapon safety, stranger awareness, and bike safety are a sample of the topics covered.

Second, they offered a family-friendly, safety-themed board game. “Safety Land” helps children continue to practice those many valuable safety lessons reiterated from the Prezi, so they know how to be safe in many different situations.



Stow Safety Town unfortunately was not able to have its typical program in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Safety Town team worked hard to develop an alternative solution to help educate the children in our community on the many essential safety topics we cover in Safety Town.



Lastly, with the help of Akron Children’s Hospital, Western Reserve Hospital, Goldfish Swim School in Hudson, and Stow Police and Fire Department, a Safety Town Drive-Thru event was able to be held at Stow Munroe Falls High School. Eighty children received a free helmet, a dual carbon monoxide/smoke detector, a t-shirt, coloring books, and so much more from our wonderful sponsors.

## Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program

The NRA Foundation and Ohio Friends of the NRA awarded Stow Police Department with a grant to fund an Eddie Eagle mascot costume valued at \$2,800. With their support, we can grow our Eddie Eagle GunSafe® program and promote gun accident prevention across our community. We have been incorporating these lessons for over 30 years in our safety education program for children going into Kindergarten called Safety Town, sponsored by Stow Police and Stow Fire Department.

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® program is a gun accident prevention program that seeks to help parents, law enforcement, community groups, and educators navigate an important topic for our children’s safety. It was developed by a task force made up of educators, school administrators, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, law enforcement officials, and National Rifle Association firearm safety experts. It began in 1988 with one mission: teach children four simple, easy-to-remember steps, so they know what to do if they ever come across a gun.



## Police Explorers

The cities of Stow, Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls, and Munroe Falls collaborate to have a multi-jurisdiction police explorer post. This program, which is an offshoot of the Boy Scouts of America, allows young men and women from the communities, aged 14-20, to explore the possibility of law enforcement as a career. Officer Jason Bailey is the program coordinator for Stow.

The youths meet regularly and learn what it is like to be an officer. Their training includes classroom instruction as



well as hands-on experience. Explorers often volunteer at community events and ride along with officers on duty. Due to the pandemic, the Explorer program was suspended indefinitely for 2020.

## School Crossing Guards

Stow PD employs nine (9) crossing guards. These dedicated individuals are managed by the Stow Youth Services Supervisor and are assigned to help children cross the road at seven (7) school locations throughout the city. These folks are trusted with the safety of the city's schoolchildren. They can be seen out stopping traffic and keeping things running smoothly in the sunshine, rain, sleet, or snow! In 2020, the school year, along with the function of crossing guards was cut short in March.



## Community Events

### Back the Blue

On July 18, 2020, Stow resident, Scott Simpkins organized an appreciation event for the police to “Back the Blue”. Folks armed with handmade signs and thank you notes filled the grassy area east of the Safety Center to show their support.

Scott sold t-shirts to community members and generously presented a check for the profits to the Stow PD K-9 program!



## Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

Each year, the Special Olympics torch passes through the City of Stow as it makes its way across the State of Ohio, proudly carried by law enforcement officers to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Hudson officers pass off the torch to Stow officers at the northern border. Stow PD then runs the torch three and a half miles to the southern edge of the city where it is transferred to Munroe Falls officers so that it can continue on its journey.



In 2020, the Torch Run went virtual, due to the pandemic. Participants were asked to run their leg of the race solo and tag selfies on social media to raise awareness.



## Shop with a Cop turns Blue Santa



Due to Covid-19, the annual Shop with a Cop for 2020 was canceled. The program that normally hosts over 15 Summit County Police agencies and over 200 Summit County children each year to provide Christmas gifts to children in need was not possible. It was up to each individual agency to decide how they were going to give back to their community for the holidays.

The challenge that was presented to Stow PD was how to fundraise for donations and how to provide a Covid-safe alternative to providing a Christmas to children and families in need. A team was comprised of Stow Police Officer Bethany Childers along with Stow Youth Services (SYS) employees Kathy Christ and Toni Carter to work through the challenges. Operation Blue Santa was set and planned to deploy soon after.

Stow schools assisted the program in finding 16 children throughout the city in need of extra assistance for the holidays. Each officer who volunteered was assigned to sponsor a child (or 2) and shop for them at Target based off the wish list the kids provided. Due to generous donations throughout the community, each child was given \$300.00 worth of wrapped Christmas gifts from their wish list! Their parents or guardians were also provided with gift cards to local grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and entertainment. In 2019, the limit for each child for Shop with a Cop was \$150 and we far exceeded that!



On December 12, 2020, we deployed Operation Blue Santa with 11 police officers and their volunteers. Officers and volunteers hopped in their police cruisers filled with gifts that were wrapped by the Stow Dispatch center. Officers paraded throughout the city to each child's home with their overhead lights on and "Santa Clause is coming to Town" playing on the overhead speaker. Trailing the parade was the Metro SWAT bearcat with the one and only Santa Clause waving to the city out of the top turret. Gifts were delivered utilizing masks and social distancing to each smiling child along the route.



## 2020 Personnel

### Sworn Officers

Chief Jeffrey E. Film	Captain Bryan J. Snavely	Lieutenant Michael A. Titus
Lieutenant Kenneth A. Mifflin	Lieutenant Heather M. Prusha	Lieutenant Stephen W. Miller
Sergeant Daniel N. Drummond	Sergeant Jeffrey A. Breznak	Sergeant Erik N. Dirker
Sergeant Kasey L. Lasko	Sergeant Theodore L. Bell	Sergeant John L. Ginther
Detective Edith F. Gaffney	Detective Jeffrey D. Swanson	Detective Nicholas F. Dolezal
Detective Stephen J. Heim		
Officer Timothy J. Reiheld	Officer David M. Semonin	Officer Joseph J. Hepler
Officer James J. Barker	Officer Barry C. Smith	Officer Robert S. Molody
Officer Ryan M. Schulz	Officer Brian R. Haddix	Officer Jesse J. Reedy
Officer Michael B. Murphy	Officer Justin C. Smith	Officer Robert D. Frisina
Officer Jason L. Bailey	Officer Edward J. Wonner	Officer Bethany M. Childers
Officer Patrick R. Myers	Officer Jacob D. Corfman	Officer Brett M. Balog
Officer Samuel J. Williams	Officer Kevin R. Smith	Officer Justin M. Burgess
Officer Jacob M. Pajestka	Officer Kristopher J. Maruna	Officer Christopher J. Musarra
Officer Taylor N. Paxton	Officer Christopher B. Demars	Officer Dylan M. Gabel
Officer Samantha R. Hornyak		

### Reserve Unit

Captain Tom Sedor	Advisory Captain Ron King
Lieutenant Donovan Kelley	
Sergeant Alisha Greenawalt-Johnson	Sergeant Michael Dolbow
Sergeant Fred Massingill	Sergeant Johnathan Agler
Officer Gregory Hunter	Officer Anthony York
Officer Adam Penny	Officer Brad Hough

## Civilian Staff

### Chief's Office

Supervisor: Marguerite Amonett

### Communication Specialists

Supervisor: Danielle Morgan

Tammy Molody  
Jessica Dolezal  
Sara Worley  
Tara Wilson  
Adrianna Vaughn  
Norma Stewart  
Vinnie Picone

Stephanie Despot-Cook  
Kara Farkas  
Bobbi Smyth  
LoAnn Groghan  
Angie Mack  
Francesca Thurston

Jamie McShane  
Sheryl Dunn  
Susan Novak  
Lindsey Huston  
Adrienne Henterly  
Ronnell Massengill

### Community Service Officer

Edward Young

### Records Division

Supervisor: Cheryl Black

Michelle Badgley

Jami Lord-Smith

April Dirker

### Stow Youth Services

Supervisor: Kathy Christ

Toni Carter

Ron Clum

